Exploration of coal deposits in U.P. and Bihar

*5. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH :
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh for the exploration of coal deposits during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the total quantum of coal deposits located in these States during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has carried out regional exploration for coal in Bihar during the last three years and the exploration is still continuing. In addition to GSI, Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited is also carrying out a detailed exploration for coal in Bihar. However, no exploration work has been carried out in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years.

(b) and (c) During the last three years (1989-92), GSI has assessed an additional coal reserve of 3.2 billion tonnes in coalfields of Bihar.

Problems of Child Labour

*6. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) what initiatives Government have taken to tackle the pernicious problem of child labour;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of child labourers are in fact girl children;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether any committee has been appointed, particularly, with reference to the carpet industry;

(e) if so, what are details thereof; and

(f) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) to (f) Legislative provisions have been made in various laws to protect children from exploitation at work and to improve their working conditions. In addition, the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits employment of children in certain hazardous occupations and processes and regulate their employment in some other areas.

A National Policy on Child Labour has been formulated in 1987 which apart from enforcement of legal provisions envisages focussing on general development programmes for the benefit of child labour and project-based plan of action in areas of high concentration of child labour. National Child Labour Projects have been set up in nine such areas.

Financial assistance to voluntary organisations is provided for taking up action-oriented projects. In addition, with ILO's assistance, two projects for tackling the problem of child labour within the framework of National Policy, namely IPEC (International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour) and CLASP (Child Labour Action and Support Programme) have also been taken up.

As per the 1981 Census there was a total of 13.6 million Child Workers, 33.57% of whom were Girls.

A State level Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Labour Minister of U.P. Govt. to give suggestions for tackling problems regarding child labour. District level task forces have also been set up under the Chairmanship of District Magistrates in the concerned Districts.